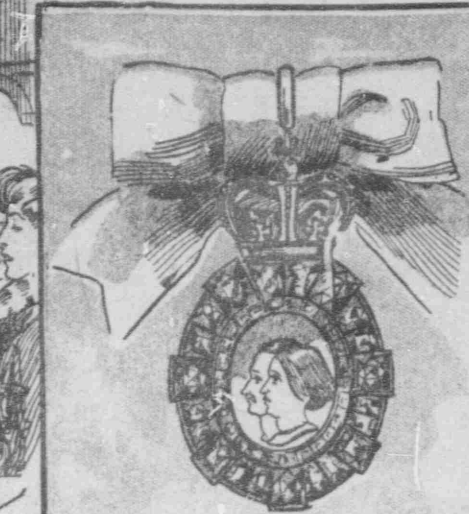


# ORDERS THAT WOMEN WEAR

## SPLENDID DECORATIONS THAT THEY WIN BY MERIT OR DISTINGUISHED SERVICES



*Order Victoria and Albert, England*

war, heroic attention rendered the sick and dying, a signal accomplishment for the benefit of humanity, the writing of a powerful book or a determining discovery in science. Orders for women, as a rule, signify actual service for humanity or a close alliance with active benevolence.

Such orders have been worn by some of the noblest, most unselfish women in the world.

In countries where foreign titles are regarded lightly, where royal favor is lightly held—even here one mark of distinction is regarded with its true value. And the fair lady who can wear the tiny jeweled insignia boasts of a distinction less open to question than the dubious appendage of a titled husband in the shape of an impecunious earl. Fortunes cannot buy the prized decorations; only valiant service of some sort.

Centuries ago, when the Moors were engaged in a terrific broil in Spain, and blood ran like water in the flower-grown loggias of the palaces, women distinguished themselves by bravery and admirable heroism. And none more than the women of Tortosa when besieged by the olive-skinned Moors.

So valiantly did the women fight the invaders that, in the twelfth century, the last duke of Barcelona, Ramon Berenguer, established "The Order of the Axe" for women to recall the heroic deeds of the women who had given up their lives.

The recipients of the order wore a red axe in their kerchiefs. This was the first order established for women.

Established to honor women for service, only one order distinctly marked heroism in the masculine sense of the word. In the battle of Fruth, when Peter the Great of Russia led his forces against the Turks, defeat stared him grimly and determinedly in the face. The battle was fierce and terrible. But in the fight with the emperor was his wife, the valorous Catherine, but for whom, he afterward declared, the entire army would have been lost.

After the war Peter instituted the Order of Liberty and bestowed it upon his wife. During his lifetime no other received the honor. But in 1797 the Emperor Paul I changed the character of the order so that it might be conferred upon the higher nobility connected with the imperial institution. Each member was especially charged with the care, manners and morals of a pupil in the royal household. It is now known as the "Order of Catherine."

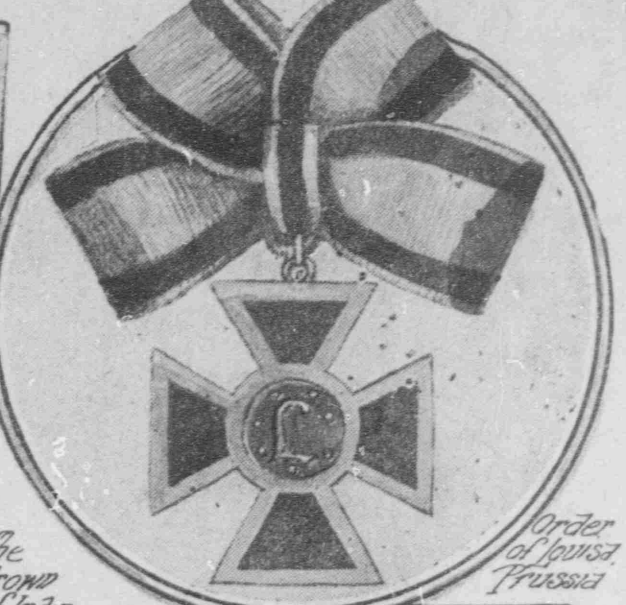
Most prized of the orders for women in Germany is that of Louise, established on August 3, 1815, by Frederick William III. This was after the war for freedom—when Napoleon, in a triumph preceding death, had marched conquering over the continent.

Imbued with an overwhelming spirit of patriotism, the women of Prussia sold their jewels and gold rings to raise money for the soldiers. Instead of gold and silver, they wore iron rings and ornaments. Into the field of battle many went, nursing the sick and caring for the dying.

In memory of the deeds of these women and the queen, Louise, the emperor established the order, limiting the number of members to 100. It was enlarged somewhat by Frederick William IV in 1850 and King William in 1892.



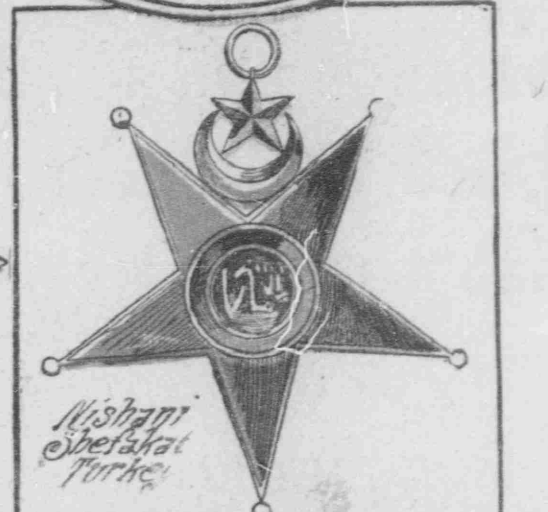
*The Crown of India, England*



*Order of Louise, Prussia*



*Order of the Star of the Danube, Austria*



*Nishan-i-Shefakat, Turkey*



*Order of St. Isabella, Portugal*



*Order of St. Theresa, Bavaria*



*Order of St. Anne, Bavaria*



*Order Maria Louisa, Spain*



*Order of St. Elizabeth, Bavaria*



*Order of the Starry Cross, Austria*



*Order of Sidonia, Saxony*



*Order of St. Anne, Wurzburg*



*Cross of the Legion of Honor, France*



*Star of Catherine, Russia*

city by princes and princesses, by lords and ladies of high degree, as they seem out of reach of those of humbler birth.

Imagine, therefore, the astonishment that swept over Europe recently when Madame Marcelle Tynaire, a noted authoress, declined to receive the decoration of the Legion of Honor of France. This honor has been conferred rarely upon women; men regard it as a signal mark of distinction.

Many European countries have established orders for women—a princess will wear them as proudly as a peasant.

LITTLE glittering crosses, bright medals, bearing colored enameled figures and quaint inscriptions, dangling from delicate ribbons on ceremonial dresses, shine forth a royal recognition of "motherhood."

Not the motherhood of the domestic home, but the motherhood of man—a brave sacrifice made in

daughters of military officers are eligible.

To receive the Order of Theresa a woman must be unmarried. When it was endowed in 1827 by Queen Theresa, the membership was limited to twelve ladies of Bavarian descent.

The order was later extended, and a branch called the Ladies of Honor included. Unlike the original members, the Ladies of Honor were granted no pension privileges.

Besides the princesses of the royal and ducal houses of Bavaria, the Order of Theresa includes the queen of Wurtemberg, the German empress and their family connections. Similar to these orders are the Order of Elizabeth and the Order of St. Anne of Wurzburg.

Of exceptional historical interest is the Order of the Starry Cross, founded by the Empress Eleanor of Austria in 1668. After a great fire had destroyed the Hofburg, or imperial palace, there was found in the ruins a little crucifix, said to contain a relic of the true cross.

According to the traditions of the family, it had been worn by and protected the Emperor Maximilian in the perilous campaign against Martin Luther. It was treasured in a casket of crystal and enamel, and after the great fire was entirely unharmed.

Grateful for this miraculous preservation, the empress decided to commemorate the event by establishing an order for ladies. Pope Clement IX confirmed the order and entrusted the spiritual management to the prince bishop of Vienna.

The order is conferred only on ladies of royal blood who have done notable work for the relief of the poor and attention to sick in hospitals.

To encourage service among the sick and wounded in times of war the Cross of Mary was founded. The declaration is that of the Teutonic Knights, and was formerly limited to those of the Catholic faith. It is conferred now, however, upon any woman of whatever communion who distinguishes herself by service.

When Queen Victoria assumed the imperial title on January 1, 1876, she founded the Imperial Order of the Crown of India, to be enjoyed by the prin-

cesses of the royal house and the wives or other female relatives of Indian princes. There is only one class, and, besides the royal princesses, only the female relatives of persons who hold or have held the offices of viceroy and governor general of India, governors of Madras or Bombay, or of principal secretary of state for India are eligible.

To gain the decoration, a woman must play a conspicuous part in ceremonial life or distinguish herself by bravery in a crisis. The Royal Family Order of Victoria and Albert, instituted in 1892 by Queen Victoria, comprises three classes, and the membership is quite large.

One of the most exclusive orders is that of Maria Louisa of Spain, the membership of which is confined to the ladies of the royal house and thirty ladies of ultra noble lineage.

Members of the Order of Isabella of Portugal are particularly charged with the care of foundlings. On the decoration are the words, "Pauperum solatio," or "Consolation of the poor."

Although the Orient is not without honors for women, the most important decoration, that of the Order of Nishan-i-Shefakat, was founded to commemorate the work of distinguished English women.

Touching by the work accomplished by means of the Turkish Compassionate Fund, instituted by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts to give succor to the non-combatants during the Russo-Turkish War, Sultan Abdul Hamid II founded the order in 1878.

With the permission of the queen, he decorated Lady Layard in Turkey and forwarded the decoration to the Baroness Burdett-Coutts and other ladies active in raising the fund. The meaning of the order is "Pity, mercy, kindness."

After a return from a European tour, the shah of Persia founded a similar order to be bestowed upon the wives and daughters of those who had shown him marked hospitality during his visit. Unfortunately, it went into practical extinction.